Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 14289 260939Z ACTION EUR-12

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UNCLAS LONDON 14289

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: BEXP, UK

SUBJECT: FY 1979 PROMOTION EVENT SCHEDULE.

REF: STATE 196572

AS REQUESTED POST MAKES FOLLOWING COMMENTS ON EVENTS SCHEDULE PROPOSED IN REFTEL, BASED ON CONTACTS WITH LOCAL REPS OF U.S. FIRMS:

- 1. PRODUCTION ENGINEERING (OLYMPIA, OCT. 2-7, 1978). NO ADVERSE FACTORS DETECTED.
- 2. ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY PRODUCTION AND TEST EQUIPMENT (NOVEMBER, 1978). INTERNEPCON, ONE OF THE U.K.'S LARGEST ANNUAL ELECTRONICS SHOWS WITH HUNDREDS OF BOOTHS, WILL BE HELD IN BRIGHTON OCT. 17-19. HOWEVER, MOST FIRMS CONTACTED PLAN TO AVOID THAT EVENT AS BEING TOO LARGE AND CIRCUS-LIKE. NONETHELESS, PROMOTION OF LTC EVENT MAY SUFFER, EVEN IF PROCUREMENT IS NOT AFFECTED. POST ALSO NOTES THAT APRIL 1977 LTC EVENT ON THIS THEME HAD PROCURE MENT PROBLEMS, SMALL (ALTHOUGH HIGH QUALITY) ATTENDANCE AND BELOW-AVERAGE SALES.
- 3. SECURITY EQUIPMENT (DECEMBER, 1978). THE UK'S MAJOR SECURITY SHOW, IFSSEC, WILL BE HELD IN APRIL UNCLASSIFIED

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1978 AND THEREFORE WILL NOT CONSTITUTE A CONFLICT FOR DECEMBER EVENT. ON THE ONE HAND, HOWEVER, PROXIMITY TO HIGH-CRIME CHRISTMAS SEASON WILL MAKE IT EASIER TO FOCUS RETAILERS' ATTENTION ON SECURITY PROBLEMS. ON THE OTHER HAND, CHRISTMAS IS A POPULAR UK HOLIDAY SEASON, AND HEAVY SHOPPING IN OXFORD STREET DISRUPTS TRAFFIC IN LTC AREA WEEKS BEFORE CHRISTMAS. SEVERAL EXHIBITORS FROM MARCH

LTC EVENT RECOMMENDED MIDDLE OR LATE NOVEMBER DATES.

- 4. COMPUTERS (JANUARY, 1979). NEVER A PROBLEM.
- 5. HEVAC (APRIL 1979). MAJOR UK EVENT IS BI-ANNUAL EXHIBITION TO BE HELD IN MID-1978 AND 1980. LOCAL REPS HAVE AVOIDED MAJOR EXHIBITIONS FOR PAST SEVERAL YEAR, DUE TO PESSIMISTIC EVALUATION OF UK MARKET. THEY INDICATE, HOWEVER, THAT BY 1979 SUCH AN ATTITUDE WILL PROBABLY CHANGE.
- 5. FAST FOODS CATERING (MAY, 1979). NO LOCAL CONFLICTS DETECTED. HOWEVER, SEVERAL UK REPS INTEND TO ATTEND MAY CONVENTION OF NATIONAL RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION IN CHICAGO. THEY ALSO ADMITTED THAT THIS MAY AFFECT THEIR DECISION TO PARTICIPATE IN LTC EVENT. IMPACT ON U.S. PROCUREMENT WILL PRESUMABLY BE EVEN MORE PRONOUNCED.
- 7. BUSINESS EQUIPMENT (JUNE, 1979). NO LOCAL CONFLICTS DETECTED. SUGGEST WEEK OF JUNE 4-11, PREFERABLY THE FORMER, TO AVOID BOTH SPRING BANK HOLIDAY ON MAY 28 AND EARLY SUMMER VACATION PERIODS.

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